

TWENTIETH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

TO THE

TODMORDEN

Rural District Council,

BY

J. LAWSON, B.A., M.B.,

UNIV., DUB.

Presented 2nd March, 1898.

TODMORDEN:

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TODMORDEN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Hebden Bridge, 23rd February, 1898.

Gentlemen,—

I have the honour to lay before you my Report for 1897, being my Twentieth Annual one, relative to the sanitary condition of the Rural District Council of Todmorden, and the causes of sickness and death which have prevailed during the year.

The year 1897 has not been eventful in a sanitary point of view, as fortunately no serious outbreak of disease has occurred. A mild epidemic of Measles broke out in the district of Old Town and Heptonstall which was easily subdued. The birth-rate has attained the remarkably high figure of 28·7 per 1,000 per annum, the second highest ever recorded for your District; and only once beaten, in the year 1882, when it was 30·2 per 1,000 per annum. The general health and sanitary condition of all parts under your Authority, for the year, has been of a satisfactory character.

Appended to this Report are five tables, together with three special returns A, B and C, drawn up in accordance with orders from the Local Government Board and West Riding County Council, and giving such information as they require.

Table 1 shows the number of deaths from seven principal Zymotic Diseases for ten years.

Table 2 shows mortality from all causes for ten years, at subjoined ages.

Table 3 shows births, deaths, birth-rates, death-rates, and number of deaths under one year, with rate per 1,000 births, for ten years.

Table 4 shows mortality from different classes of disease for ten years.

Table 5 shows the births, deaths from all causes, and from certain special causes, with birth-rates and death-rates, in each quarter of 1897.

I estimate the population to the middle of the year 1897 to be 4,900, an increase of 50 on that of the previous year.

The births registered have been 141, viz., 68 males and 73 females ; equal to an annual birth-rate of 28·7 per 1,000. The number of births registered and rate for 1896 were respectively 113 and 23·2 per 1,000.

The deaths recorded have been 84, viz., 50 males and 34 females ; yielding an annual rate of 17·1 per 1,000, against 73 deaths and a rate of 15·0 per 1,000 for the year 1896. This death-rate is high, and has only been exceeded once in the last ten years, viz., in the year 1892, when it was 18·3 per 1,000. Of the 84 deaths, 15 were those of infants under one year old, against 12 for the year 1896. The rate of infant mortality, measured by the proportion of deaths under one year to births registered, is equal to 106·3 per 1,000. The proportion of deaths among this class for the year 1896 to every 1,000 births registered, was 106·1 per 1,000. Ten deaths were those of children over 1 but under 5 years old ; three were deaths over 5 and under 15 years ; five were deaths over 15 and under 25 years ; nineteen were deaths over 25 and under 60 years ; and thirty-two were deaths 60 years and upwards. Four deaths were registered without medical certificates of cause of death, against nine for the preceding year, and four inquests were held in cases of violent death, against one Coroner's enquiry for the year 1896.

Of the 84 deaths from specified causes, registered during the year 1897, four were ascribed to the principal Zymotic Diseases ; equal to a rate of 0·8 per 1,000 per annum. The number of deaths and rate in this class for the previous year were two, with a rate of 0·4 per 1,000 per annum. The four deaths from these diseases were Measles 3 and Typhoid Fever 1. The infectious diseases notified to me under the "Notification Act" have been 20, viz., Scarlet Fever 3, Typhoid Fever 6, Puerperal Fever 1, Membranous Croup 2, Erysipelas 6 and Diphtheria 2. One case only out of these twenty was sent to the Fielden Hospital. The number of infectious cases reported in the year 1896 was 24, of whom seven were sent to the Infectious Hospital.

Scarlet Fever. Three cases of this complaint were notified in the beginning of the year at Pecket Well ; one of which was in the Board School. The disease was probably introduced from another district. It did not, however, spread, and no further notifications of this Fever were received for the remaining portion of the year.

Measles. An outbreak of this disorder commenced in Old Town, in the month of September, which spread with

rapidity ; and in consequence of which the Board School at Old Town was closed for three weeks from the 1st October. A similar epidemic occurred in the village of Heptonstall about the 1st of October, and the Board School there was obliged to be closed for three weeks, on the 14th of that month. It is satisfactory to note that the closure of these two schools quickly arrested the progress of the disease, and nothing has been heard of it since. Three deaths are recorded from this cause.

Typhoid Fever. Six notifications of this Fever were received, viz., two in Heptonstall, two in Midge Hole and two in Old Town. One patient was sent to the Fielden Hospital, and there was one death. The origin of all remains obscure. A supposed polluted water supply, suggested as a cause, was analysed, and the chemical examination of which gave evidence of its purity and safety.

Influenza has been very much present during the whole year and caused three deaths. It appears to have taken a permanent standing amongst the regular diseases to which we are subject. It is well known to be a fatal malady, and its danger consists largely, in my opinion, in its insidious onset, and the varied and unrecognized forms which it may assume.

Inflammatory Diseases, which, in the ordinary course would terminate favourably, if Influenza is established in the system, are rendered more fatal and recovery from them more difficult and prolonged. Influenza and Typhoid Fever are very much alike in the early stages, and it is sometimes a matter of serious consideration to determine one from the other.

Diphtheria caused two deaths in Heptonstall ; both were sudden, and some sanitary defects which existed were soon rectified. This disorder has been little known in our district, up to the present. We must beware, as it is on the increase throughout the country, and is a most dangerous and infectious malady. Drainage defects are not generally or definitely ascribed as the principal or primary causes of attack. It is usually associated with cold wet weather and occurs in damp houses.

The remaining causes of death do not afford occasion for any special remark. They are much the same as the averages of preceding years. The mortality from lung and heart diseases, are somewhat less than those of previous records.

Housebuilding, which has been rare in your district for some years, has had a decided impetus lately. Twenty-three newly-built houses have become occupied during 1897.

From the Inspector's report I find the following sanitary work has been completed during the year :

- 21 Complaints have been received during the year.
- 950 Inspections have been made.
- 14 Orders issued for Sanitary Amendment of Houses and Premises.
- 14 Houses Cleansed and Disinfected.
- 22 New House Drains laid.
- 21 House Drains Repaired and Cleansed.
- 6 House Drains Trapped and Disconnected.
- 2890 Privies Cleansed.
- 18 New Privies or Water Closets provided.
- 7 Privies Repaired.
- 2 New Ashpits Provided.
- 240 Loads of Ashes Removed by Sanitary Staff.
- 120 Yards of New Sewer Laid.
- 125 Dairies and Cowsheds Inspected.
- 1 Sample of Drinking Water Analysed.
- 19 Nuisances Abated.
- 1 Patient removed to Infectious Hospital.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. LAWSON, M.B.,

Medical Officer of Health.

The Todmorden Rural District Council.



Table No. 1.

Showing Deaths from Seven Principal Zymotic Diseases for
Ten Years.

Year.	Smallpox.	Measles.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Whooping Cough.	Fevers.	Diarrhoea, Dysentery and Cholera.	Total.	Rate per 1000 per annum.
1888	0	1	0	2	1	3	0	7	0.9
1889	0	8	0	1	2	0	0	11	1.4
1890	0	0	5	0	0	3	1	9	1.2
1891	0	3	0	0	2	0	1	6	0.9
1892	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0.2
1893	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	0.4
1894	0	3	0	0	0	0	2	5	1.0
1895	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	4	0.8
1896	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	0.4
1897	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	4	0.8

Table No. 2.

Showing Mortality from all Causes for Ten Years at
Subjoined Ages.

Year.	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 60	60 and upwards	Total.
1888	13	8	5	6	30	59	121
1889	16	12	4	4	14	47	97
1890	17	10	9	8	29	42	115
1891	13	12	1	2	28	55	111
1892	13	5	1	6	22	40	87
1893	13	4	5	2	13	25	62
1894	11	8	3	4	17	26	69
1895	13	3	0	5	9	46	76
1896	12	5	3	3	18	32	73
1897	15	10	3	5	19	32	84

Table No. 3.

Showing Births, Deaths, Birth-rates, Death-rates, and number of Deaths under One Year, with Rate per 1,000 Births for Ten Years.

Year.	Estimated Population.	Deaths under 1 year.		Births.	Deaths.	Birth-rate.	Death-rate.
		No.	Rate per 1000 births				
1888	7,350	13	73·8	176	121	23·9	16·4
1889	7,400	16	99·3	161	97	21·7	13·1
1890	7,400	17	105·5	161	115	21·7	15·5
1891	6,587	13	98·4	132	111	20·0	16·8
1892	4,745	13	149·4	87	87	18·3	18·3
1893	4,745	13	116·0	112	62	23·6	13·0
1894	4,800	11	115·7	95	69	19·7	14·3
1895	4,800	13	112·0	116	76	24·1	15·8
1896	4,850	12	106·1	113	73	23·2	15·0
1897	4,900	15	106·3	141	84	28·7	17·1

Table No. 4.

Showing Mortality from different Classes of Disease for Ten Years.

Causes.	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897
Smallpox.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles	1	8	0	3	0	0	3	0	1	3
Scarlatina	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Diphtheria	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
Croup	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	2
Whooping Cough.....	1	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	0
Typhus Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enteric Fever	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Other Fevers.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diarrhœa & Dysentery	0	0	1	1	0	1	2	2	0	0
Cholera	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rheumatic Fever ...	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Erysipelas	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Pyœmia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Ague	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Phthisis	7	8	8	3	5	2	5	4	4	2
Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy...	16	16	15	27	14	15	12	13	17	10
Heart	9	6	7	10	8	3	2	7	9	6
Injuries	1	2	2	3	2	0	1	0	0	3
Other Diseases	79	53	72	61	57	38	43	48	40	53
Total	121	97	115	111	87	62	69	76	73	84

Table No. 5.

Showing the Births, Deaths from all Causes, and from certain Special Causes, with Birth and Death-rates, in each Quarter of 1897.

Quarter ending	Births.	Deaths from all causes.	Birth-rate.	Death-rate.	DEATHS FROM			
					Seven Pr'nc'p'l Zymotic Diseases	Phthisis	Diseases of Lungs.	Heart Disease.
March 31st	36	23	29·3	18·7	0	1	3	1
June 30th	42	23	34·2	18·7	1	0	4	1
September 30th	36	15	29·3	12·2	0	1	0	2
December 31st.	27	23	22·0	18·7	3	0	3	2
Total	141	84	28·7	17·1	4	2	10	6

Mortality from subjoined Causes, distinguishing Deaths of Children under Five Years of Age.

Causes.	Under 5 Years of Age.	Above 5 Years of age.
Smallpox.....	0	0
Scarlatina	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0
Membranous Croup.....	2	0
Typhus Fever	0	0
Enteric or Typhoid Fever.....	0	1
Continued Fever	0	0
Relapsing Fever	0	0
Puerperal Fever	0	2
Cholera	0	0
Erysipelas	0	1
Measles	1	2
Whooping Cough.....	0	0
Diarrhoea and Dysentery	0	0
Rheumatic Fever.....	1	0
Phthisis	0	2
Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy	2	8
Heart Disease	0	6
Influenza.....	0	3
Injuries	1	2
All other Diseases	18	32
Total	25	59

TABLE OF DEATHS during the Year 1897, in the Todmorden Rural Council Sanitary District, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Mortality from all Causes, at subjoined Ages.

Deaths all ages.	Under 1 Year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and up- wards.
84	15	10	3	5	24	27

TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, and of NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the Year 1897, in the Todmorden Rural Council Sanitary District; Classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Population at all Ages, and Registered Births.

Census 1891.....	4745
Estimated to middle of 1897.....	4900
Registered Births	141

New Cases of Sickness in each Locality, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.

Causes.	Under 5 Years of Age.	Above 5 Years of Age.
Smallpox	0	0
Scarlatina	0	3
Diphtheria	0	2
Membranous Croup.....	2	0
Typhus Fever	0	0
Enteric or Typhoid Fever.....	0	6
Continued Fever	0	0
Relapsing Fever	0	0
Puerperal Fever	0	1
Cholera	0	0
Erysipelas	0	6

Number of such Cases removed from their Homes in the several Localities for Treatment in Isolation Hospital.

Above 5 Years of Age: Enteric or Typhoid Fever—1.

TABLE C, 1897.**Todmorden Rural Council Sanitary District.**

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—J. LAWSON, M.B.

SANITARY INSPECTOR—Mr. EMMETT SMITH.

WATER SUPPLY—

Mostly private supplies through district.
Any inadequacy in any part?—No.
Quality—Generally good.
Action on Lead?—None reported.
Any extensions or change during 1897?—No.

SEWERAGE—

Extensions or Improvements during 1897?—120 yards.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL—

Treatment now in operation—Chemical precipitation for
Heptonstall; the rest disposed of on land.

ADOPTIVE ACTS, BYE-LAWS, AND REGULATIONS—

	Date of adoption.
Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890—	1st August, 1891.
Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1899,	
such sections of part 3 as affect Rural	
Districts—	1st August, 1891.

Schemes before Local Government Board—None.

SPECIAL REPORTS by M.O.H. during 1897—Two Special Reports.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL—

Any action during 1897—No.

MISCELLANEOUS—

Number of houses built and occupied during 1897—23.
General character—Cottage class.
Is House-to-house Inspection systematically made—No.
Total No. of Nuisances in hand at close of 1896—10.
At close of 1897—5.
Reported during 1897—48.
Abated during 1897—53.
Total No. of Summonses or other Legal Proceedings—None.
No. of Sink wastes disconnected during 1897—6.
 „ trapped „ —6.
No. of Closets constructed during 1897—18.
Kinds—16 water closets and 2 pails.

What action has been taken in regard to the following matters :—

Houses unfit for habitation—None.

Overcrowding—None.

Seizure of unsound food—None.

Prosecutions—None.

Samples under Sale of Food and Drugs Act—None.

Prosecutions—None.

River pollution—None.

Smoke abatement—None.

No. of observations taken—16.

Schools : No. in District—4.

No. closed on account of outbreaks of disease—2.

Total duration of closure from this cause—three weeks.

Burial Grounds—No. in District, 3. Any need for extension?
No.

Vaccination—General efficiency, none.

BIRTHS—Males 68, Females 73; Total 141.

Number Illegitimate included in the above—2.

Any information as to Still-Births?—No.

DEATHS—Males 50, Females 34; Total 84.

Number Uncertified, included in the above—4.

RATEABLE VALUE as stated in Valuation List—£25,651 15s. Rate in
the £, 1897— $3\frac{1}{4}$.

